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COUNTRY Soviet Zone of Germany REPORT NO. [REDACTED]TOPIC Soviet Troops and Documents Wittenberg

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EVALUATION See below PLACE OBTAINED [REDACTED]DATE OF CONTENT 25X1A late January to mid-February 1950DATE OBTAINED [REDACTED] DATE PREPARED 21 April 1950

REFERENCES

PAGES 5 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE)**RETURN TO CIA LIBRARY**

REMARKS

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1. The following information was obtained in Wittenberg (N 52/E 37) on 6 and 7 February 1950:

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a. Pionier Kaserne on Teuchlerweg:

Occupied by about 2,000 troops.
Sixteen T34 tanks were being overhauled in front of the garages at the gate.
Passenger car T 4-40-09, tank truck E 2-41-19 and the following trucks were identified:

T 4-41-26	T 4-41-77
T 4-41-29	T 4-41-82
T 4-41-70	(1)

This document is hereby regraded to CONFIDENTIAL in accordance with the letter of 16 October 1978 from the Director of Central Intelligence to the Archivist of the United States.

Next Review Date: 2008

b. Flak Kaserne on Nordendstrasse:

Occupied to capacity by 2,000 to 3,000 troops, reportedly belonging mostly to tank units.

Three T34 tanks left the barracks for the training field.
Trucks T 4-41-04, T 4-41-45 and T 4-41-65 were identified. (2)

2. The following information was obtained in Wittenberg on 23 and 24 February 1950:

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a. Thuentzien Kaserne:

Occupied by troops belonging to the following units:

(1) A high unit headquarters, allegedly a division headquarters, staffed with about 300 officers and EM. Many officers were there. The headquarters building was strictly guarded; even high-ranking officers had to show passes to the sentry.

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- (2) A signal unit of about 100 troops.
- (3) An engineer unit of about 100 troops wearing crossed-axe insignia.
- (4) A guards rifle unit of about 500 troops. Recruits were trained in the barracks yard with two 80-mm mortars. Motor vehicles with numbers of the F 4-40-xx and F 4-41-xx series operated in the barracks area (3).

b. Flak Kaserne:

Occupied to capacity by 3,000 to 3,500 troops, mostly very young soldiers, of various branches of service. The service colors observed are listed according to their frequency:

- Red-bordered black epaulets without insignia.
- Red-bordered black epaulets with tank insignia.
- Red-bordered black epaulets with artillery insignia.
- Black epaulets with crossed-hammer insignia.
- Black epaulets without insignia.
- Red-bordered black epaulets with motor transport insignia.
- Black epaulets with silver anchor insignia.
- Black epaulets with signal insignia.

The following units were allegedly stationed in the barracks:

- (1) Tank units with about 1,000 troops, equipped with about seventy T34/43 tanks.
- (2) Guards rifle units of about 1,000 troops, equipped with motor vehicles having numbers of the F 4-40-xx and F 4-41-xx series.
- (3) Various artillery units of about 600 troops. Some 76.2-mm AT guns, SU-76 SF guns and 120-mm mortars were observed.
- (4) Engineer units with about 300 troops, equipped with motor vehicles having numbers of the C 8-80-xx, C 8-83-xx and C 8-84-xx series.
- (5) Motor transport units totaling about 300 troops.
- (6) A signal unit of about 100 troops.

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The following field practices were observed:

(1) An attack practice involving about 400 infantrymen and twenty-two T34 tanks in the area north of the barracks on 11 February 1950. The tanks advanced in two waves at wide intervals. Each tank was followed by 10 to 12 infantrymen, almost exclusively armed with submachine guns. (4)

(2) Seventeen T34 tanks, three Shchuka tanks and six SU-76 SF guns were seen in the area west of the Flak Kaserne on 23 February 1950. (4)

c. Beseler Kaserne:

Occupied to capacity by tank and artillery units totaling at least 2,000 troops.

Twenty-four T34 tanks and eight Shchuka tanks, each occupied by three to five men, were observed speeding from the area north of the barracks through the northern barracks gate. About 200 troops held basic drill in the barracks yard.

Two SU-249 SF guns, one SU-152 SF gun and five 76.2-mm AT guns were seen in the barracks yard.

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An envelope bearing AFNs 45 337 and 52 808 was found in the area north of the Beseler Kaserne. (5) According to observations over a prolonged period of time, the Beseler Kaserne was occupied by the following units:

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- (1) A medium tank regiment, equipped with T34/43 tanks.
- (2) A heavy tank regiment.
- (3) An SP artillery regiment.
- (4) An AT artillery unit.
- (5) A mortar unit.

The repeated observation of a military band indicated that a regimental headquarters may be stationed there. (1)

d. Residential quarter on Berliner Strasse:

Occupied only by officers on 24 February 1950. NCOs who had previously lived there moved to the barracks in late January and early February 1950. Numerous dependents from the residential quarter were repatriated to the Soviet Union in February 1950.

e. County kommandatura:

A building on Mauerstrasse, corner of Juristenstrasse, previously belonging to the kommandatura, was released to the German municipal administration in early February 1950. The kommandatura on Buergermeisterstrasse was still staffed with 80 to 100 officers and EN on 24 February

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strasse and Rungeweg
with the following

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g. Miscellaneous:

A freight train of one flatcar loaded with bridge-construction lumber and 27 boxcars, including 3 occupied by troops, left Wittenberg heading east on 23 February 1950 at about 1 p.m.

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Comment:

- (1) From available information, the 51st Gds Tank Regt

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(Cadre) of the 6th Gds Tank Div (Cadre) is assumed to be in the Pionier Kaserne (Beseler Kaserne) on Teuchlerweg. The 85th Gds Hv Tank St Regt (Cadre) of the division may also be in the Beseler Kaserne. [REDACTED] a heavy tank unit and a heavy SP artillery unit to be stationed in the barracks in early January 1950).

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(2) According to available information, tank, artillery and other component units of the 6th Gds Tank Div (Cadre), probably including a medium tank regiment and an engineer battalion, are in the Flek Kaserne,

The engineer battalion has been believed to be the ? No. (120th ?) Gds Engr Bn (Cadre) of the 6th Gds Tank Div

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(3) [REDACTED] and [REDACTED], it is definitely assumed that the Hq 6th Gds Tank Div (Cadre) is in the Teuentzien Kaserne. Signal and engineer units and elements (about one battalion) of the ? No. (22d Gds?) Mtz Rifle Regt (Cadre) of the division are probably also stationed there.

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(4) The reported field practices in the environs of the military post were conducted following weapons and drill practices.

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